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STORIES OF THE DIAMOND

Eddie Collins Talks About the Art of Base Running.

SPEED DOESN'T ALWAYS COUNT

Philadelphia Americans' Second Sacker Says the Head Plays as Important a Part as the Feet—Thinks Star Base Runners Are Born, Not Made.

No. XXV.

By EDDIE COLLINS.
[Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.]

Good base running consists in reaching the base safely; bad base running consists in being caught. At least that is the verdict of the crowd, and even an expert has a hard time to tell whether the base running is good or bad. Some of the worst breaks made on bases win games, and some of the best result in defeat. The expert can tell a good base runner by the way he gets the start, the ground he gains while the pitcher is delivering the ball, the way he slides to the objective base and the judgment he uses when stealing.

Base running brings out most forcibly what is in a player. It is here where brains count most. Hitting ability is a natural gift. It is something that may be improved, but cannot be acquired. Base running is like hitting. Base runners are born, not made. In all strategies of attack as well as defense speed is a fine equipment. It is not an essential. Few ten second men have blossomed into big league material in the base running department. Most of them lack brains. Few use their speed to advantage. More important than speed is the ability to get quickly into motion. The man who always depends upon a coacher to tell him what to do will never succeed. A player must always have the situation in mind. He must be ready to take advantage of every little slip of an opponent.

Making the most of opportunities is another knack of base running. The record of stolen bases in a player's average is not always a criterion of his ability. There is no better illustration afforded than in stretching a hit.

On a hit to the outfield a runner should always make the turn to second. He should run toward the next bag as far as possible without running the risk of being trapped by a quick, accurate throw. One should also use variations to this play. It is not a bad idea once in awhile to turn quickly as if to get back to first. This will often take the fielder off his guard. He may throw the ball leisurely, making it easy to beat the throw to the cushion, or a bluff to take second may make him throw wildly. It is also good policy to worry the pitcher and catcher by leading off as far as possible and bluffing. You not only help yourself, but if the batter works in conjunction with you it might lead to the pitcher's losing control.

Another highly important essential in negotiating bases is the slide. The principle is easy, although methods vary as much as the players. Always slide opposite to the direction in which the fielder will take the throw. A high throw naturally goes in back of the base line. On this one should slide to the front of the bag. A low throw brings the baseman in. In this case the best way is to circle him from behind. No two men have the same methods of sliding. Some try for the bag feet first. There is less personal risk, though when the ground is insecure a twisted ankle is the result. The slide varies with the baseman, and experience alone can improve this. Some like throws to one side, while others may excel just the opposite way.

There are players in the big leagues today who never improve in base running. Many have the requisite speed, but poor managers have done more to handicap base running than good managers have improved it.

Cavil to Coach Illinois Swimmers.

In securing Dick Cavil of Australia as swimming instructor for the coming season the Illinois Athletic club of Chicago has brought to this country one of the most famous natators in the world. Cavil holds every professional swimming record from forty yards up to one mile. He is the inventor of the crawl stroke and has a standing challenge to meet any swimmer in the world. The new Illinois Athletic club instructor comes from a family of natators, his three brothers, Tums, Sid and Percy, holding many swimming records.

Would Change Baseball Rules. On the Pacific coast a movement has been started to amend the baseball rules so as to make it more expensive for a pitcher to hit a batsman. It is proposed to give the batsman two bases instead of one. There is another reform in the air, and that is discarding the spit ball, which it is argued is one of the chief reasons that hitting is fast becoming a lost art in every league throughout the country.

Withington, Athletic Director. Paul Withington, Hawaii, will succeed William F. Garcelon as Harvard's athletic director.

PITCHER PFIESTER WILL SPRING NEW CURVE ON PHILADELPHIA.

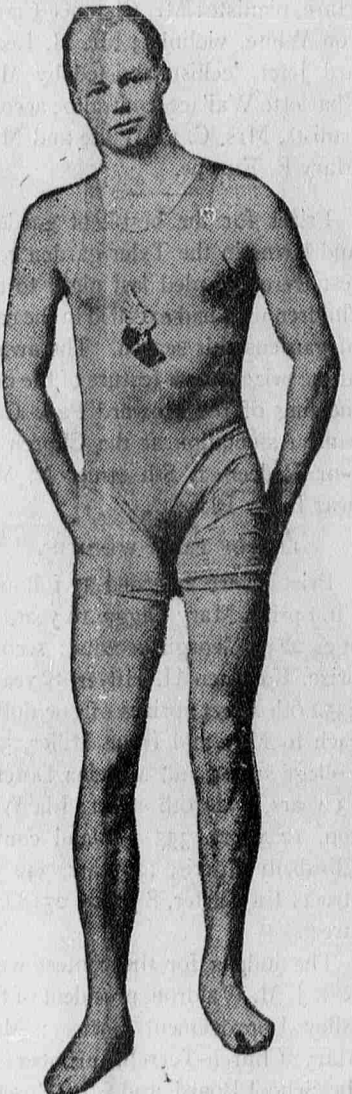
The "secret is out." Manager Chance of the Cubs will use Southpaw Pfister in the world's series. The left hander has developed a "fadeaway" ball which deceives a right hand batsman. The new ball breaks out to the right hand batter as much as does the curve ball of a right hand pitcher. To add to its deceptiveness, it is whirling rapidly as it breaks. Then, too, it is a slow ball, although started the same as a fast one. Jack has been working over the new ball for two months. At first he said he could not control it, but kept at it until now he has it perfect.

WHO WILL SUCCEED DANIELS?

Hard to Find Successor to Great Swimmer, Who Has Retired.

Now that Charles M. Daniels, the world's famous swimmer, has decided to retire the question arises, Who will be the man to take his place in this country? New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Boston and other cities all have local champions, but none who can compare with the Mercury foot wonder. Bud Goodwin is being heralded by New Yorkers as Daniels' successor, but Goodwin never has done anything wonderful as yet. Furthermore, age no doubt will play havoc with Goodwin's aspirations, as he now is close to thirty. Heber, McGilivray and Huszagh of Chicago, Fritelle of St. Louis and Sloan of Pittsburgh are all of championship caliber, but whether any one of these can attain Daniels' high position in world-wide aquatics remains to be seen.

Just why this swimming marvel should abandon the water game, in



CHARLES M. DANIELS, WHO HAS QUIT COMPETITION.

which he reigned supreme, is a puzzle to many, but it is believed that matrimonial cares are more or less responsible. The man who carried the American colors to victory in many hard fought races with the world's best swimmers has amassed a wonderful lot of prizes during his career.

BASEBALL CHIRPS

Is four outfield assists a record? Fred Clarke of the Pittsburghs threw out four players at the plate the other day.

Of the Boston champions of 1903 and 1904 not one is now a member of that team, and few are still in the American league.

Jake Stahl of the Boston Americans is playing a grand game this season. At first base, at bat and on the paths Jake is there with the goods.

Frank Bancroft of Cincinnati and Will Locke of Pittsburgh have arranged to pull off a field day in Cincinnati Oct. 9, the closing day of the championship season, in connection with the game between the Reds and Pirates.

One of the home runs made by Schulte against the Giants in the recent Chicago-New York series is declared by McGraw to be the longest yet he ever saw. The ball never has been found, and the supposition is that it went off the earth.

Manager McGraw will give Jack Johnson a trial next spring. This Johnson, like the negro champion, is a Texan, a member of the Dallas club. He is an outfielder. Pitcher Munsell of the same team has also been purchased by New York.

THE ANGLE OF REPOSE.

Depends Wholly on the Friction of the Materials in Contact.

The angle of repose is a well known term in the science of mechanics, but, besides being used in purely theoretical problems, is taken into account by railroad and other engineers. Suppose that we take a brick and lay it on a board and then gradually raise one end of the board. There will be a certain angle reached in time where the brick will not remain at rest on the board, but will start to slide down.

This is termed the angle of repose of the brick on the board. It is at that point where the component of force due to gravity overcomes the resistance due to friction between the two surfaces. Therefore the angle depends entirely on the friction. Friction varies with the materials in contact. So the angle of repose of a brick on a pine board would be different than its angle of repose on an iron board, say.

Now for the application of this in ordinary life. When a railroad cut has to be made the sides have to be sufficiently slanting to keep the earth or clay from caving in. The same applies when a ditch is dug or when fortifications are built in time of war. The angle necessary for this is of course the angle of repose of the particular kind of material through which the cut is made as measured by itself on itself, as it contains millions of individual particles in contact. The angle in this instance is determined with utmost ease and simplicity. A pile of the material is put into an open cylinder, packed down slightly, and the cylinder is then removed. Of course the pile immediately slumps down into a mound with slanting sides, the angle of which is the one wanted. This angle is somewhat smaller than the one that would be taken by compact earth and therefore allows a good margin of safety.

There are tables got out for the engineer to refer to, but it is always wiser to make a trial for every particular condition of the soil, for there are hardly two cuts made through exactly the same kinds of material in exactly the same condition.—Chicago Record-Herald.

BAIT FOR SARDINES.

Bretons Coax the Tiny Fish With Salted Eggs of the Cod.

Sardine fishing forms the chief industry of Brittany. In an average season the Brittany sardine fishermen catch 100,000,000 to 150,000,000 pounds of sardines, for which they receive anything from £300,000 to £600,000, while the shore industries dependent upon this fishery give employment to 20,000 other persons, mostly women and girls. So important is the sardine that in many communities in Brittany every person is directly or indirectly supported by it, and the failure of the fish to come means ruin, starvation and death to many people in the more isolated places.

Sardines are found on the coast of Brittany throughout the year, but flourish in greater abundance in summer and autumn. As many as 100,000 have been taken at one time in one net from one school. One remarkable feature of sardine fishing in Brittany is the enormous amount of bait which is used. The bait in general use is the salted eggs of the codfish, and it is estimated that the Breton fishermen pay £700,000 every year to Norway for cod roe for use as bait.

The casting of the bait, on the proper use of which a great deal of the success of the fishing depends, is always done by the captain of the boat, who stands on a little platform in the stern and while directing the movements of the boat and the manipulation of the net throws the bait to attract the fish to the surface and around the boat. When the fish are on one side of the net or on the other his next move is to cast the bait in such a way as to cause them to rush against the net and thus become gilled.—London Tit-Bits.

Deaf as an Adder.

The expression "deaf as an adder" is from the Psalms of David, where it appears in the following form: "Their poison is like the poison of serpents. They are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear, which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming ever so wisely." East Indian travelers tell us that there is a widely prevailing superstition in the east to the effect that both the viper and the asp stop their ears when the charmer is uttering his incantations or playing his music by turning one ear to the ground and twisting the point of the tail into the other.

His Favorite. "Which is your favorite Wagnerian opera?" asked the musician. "Lemmer see," said Mr. Cumrox, appealing to his wife. "There are several that I never heard yet, aren't there?" "Yes." "Well, I reckon it's one of them."—Washington Star.

Poor Little Goose! "Seems as if I can never find a decent quill in the house," growled the eighteenth century author. "I think it would pay you to keep a goose," sharply retorted his wife. "You mean one that would be of some help to me, don't you?" chortled the brute.—Detroit Free Press.

Vulgar Ostentation. Little Willie—Say, pa, what is vulgar ostentation? Pa—Vulgar ostentation, my son, is the display made by people who have more money to make it with than we have.—Chicago News.

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